

PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Melody Chandler at 2:00p.m. at the Dagsboro Town Hall. Members present were Meri Jo Montague, Brian Baull, Cindi Brought, Patti Adams, Paulette Hickman, Bob Flowers and Gayle Chandler.

It was moved by Paulette and seconded by Gayle to approve the May 7, 2017 agenda; the vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Paulette and seconded by Patti to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2016 meeting; the vote was unanimous.

Cindi went over the treasurer's report and budget. A discussion ensued over moving the cemetery's CD from M&T Bank in order to obtain a higher interest rate. The Bank of Delmarva has offered an 18 month CD at .60% or a 24 month CD at .75%, as opposed to leaving the CD at M&T Bank at .35%. It was moved by Gayle and seconded by Patti to move the CD to the Bank of Delmarva at an interest rate of .75% for 24 months; the vote was unanimous. Gayle asked about the Delaware Cemetery Board membership; Cindi said Dwayne called and confirmed that we are up-to-date on our membership.

Donald Lingo wrote requesting help locating information on Selak and Polly Hazzard, both of whom are buried in the Chapel cemetery. Sandi Gerken has offered to assist Mr. Lingo in his research. Gayle suggested that photos of the tombstones be sent to him.

A letter from Dale D. Jacobs was received requesting the cost of a single cemetery plot whereupon an urn and a coffin can be buried together. Discussion ensued over whether it was legal to do this. Doug Melson of Melson's Funeral Services will be asked if this is legal. If this is legal, then the town's rules and regulations would probably need to be revised. Cindi sent Mr. Jacobs information on the cost of a cemetery plot.

Meri Jo reported that the wheelchair ramp has been installed at the Chapel, and a dedication service occurred on March 26, 2017 in honor of Margaret D. Morris. She also reported on events that have occurred or are being planned. It was suggested that Chapel events be placed on the town's website; the person to contact is Megan Thorp.

Old Business

Handicap signs cannot be placed near or on the Chapel's wheelchair ramp since the handicapped parking area is not strictly legal, the reason being that the parking lot area is composed of loose stones as opposed to being paved. Bob has been removing old decorations and cleaning the cemetery grounds. A discussion ensued about the placement and type of bench in the cemetery; the town hall must be contacted before benches can be placed.

In March 2017 the Wharton/Snyder plot issue has been resolved by Melson's Funeral Services and the families.

The Dagworthy Monument was appraised by Kurt Czapp in the fall of 2016; he then fixed the base of the monument for free. Bob said more work needs to be done to repair the monument and is trying to reach Mr. Czapp. Cindi spoke with Cherie Dodge-Biron at the Division of Historical and Cultural affairs about State ownership of the monument; Ms. Dodge-Biron said that the Division does not own it. Cindi has two emails that document this opinion.

The rules and regulations were reviewed by the town council at their April meeting but not voted on; at the May meeting the rules and regulations will be voted on. At this same May town council meeting the position of cemetery representative will also be voted on; Brian Baull has agreed to once again accept the position.

The wheelchair ramp has been installed after many years of conversations among the State of Delaware's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the

Friends of Prince George's Chapel and the cemetery committee. The certificate of occupancy still needs to be completed.

Civil penalties are in effect when there are violations at the cemetery. First a warning is given. The second offense is \$100.00, and each additional offense costs \$250.00.

New Business

The Vines Creek Road parking lot was sold to Heather's Home Works on April 27, 2017. A sign and fencing were removed by Bob before the sale.

Megan Thorp has updated the cemetery website so that it is a separate entity from the Chapel. There are a few more corrections to be made and more photos to be added. Gayle encouraged everyone to view it and provide comments.

There are still burial issues in the cemetery. The last issue involved the Farmer and Bireley plots. Cindi is asking for documents verifying the two families' decision in resolving the problem. Patti said that certain cemetery plots may have tree roots that are preventing burials. Some plots are marked as unavailable on the cemetery map due to tree roots. Plots are also not consistent in their size. It was suggested that we ask plot owners to check out their plots for possible problems. Doug Brown of Melson's Funeral Services will be accompanied by Bob, Cindi and Gayle to inspect the problems that Mr. Brown has uncovered.

The Delaware Preservation Fund grant application is due in December, and now is the time to discuss possible requests for funding. The cemetery committee has asked for funding over the last several years, but the applications have been denied. The committee discussed possible ideas: trimming the oak tree at the entrance of Ward Lane, because it overhangs two roads and may not be safe, as well as other trees within the cemetery; fencing along the Chapel graveyard where the geophysical survey identified anomalies; paving the handicapped parking area (this was determined to be significantly beyond the amount given by the grant); and repairing the Dagworthy Monument (it is thought that Kurt Czapp

might do the restoration for free). Bob is to estimate the cost of fencing off the area determined by the State as possibly containing graves. Cindi is to contact tree companies to determine the cost of pruning the oak tree by Ward Lane. The town council may need to consider pruning the oak tree if the Delaware Preservation Fund denies our application. It was moved by Paulette and seconded by Gayle that Cindi contact the Delaware Preservation Fund with our application requests of either 1. Pruning the oak tree by Ward Lane or 2. Erecting a fence along the State's side of the Chapel graveyard; the vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Gayle and seconded by Patti to nominate Meri Jo Montague as the Friends of Prince George's Chapel representative; she was unanimously approved. It was moved by Meri Jo and seconded by Paulette to nominate Patti Adams for Vice President; she was unanimously approved. It was moved by Gayle and seconded by Patti to nominate Sandi Gerken as Secretary/Treasurer (Gayle had spoken to her before the meeting to obtain her approval since she would be absent at the May 7 meeting); she was unanimously approved. It was moved by Paulette and seconded by Meri Jo to nominate Gayle Chandler as President; she was unanimously approved. Melody then spoke on the importance of enlisting new members into the committee. The committee is thankful for the continued support of its present members who take on leadership roles due to a lack of new blood.

It was moved by Patti and seconded by Paulette to adjourn the meeting at 3:24pm; the vote was unanimous.

Submitted by,

Gayle L. Chandler
Acting Secretary/Treasurer